

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 8-11 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Konno (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,516) in combination with Iijima (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,307). Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Konno and Iijima and further in view of Yoshizawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,586). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Konno, Iijima, and Yoshizawa, and further in view of Lipschutz (U.S. Patent No. 4,583,148). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Konno, Iijima, Yoshizawa, and further in view of Mueller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,140,914). Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Konno in view of Yoshizawa, Carlo and Iijima, and further in view of Espinosa (U.S. Patent No. 5,448,218).

Applicant traverses the rejections at least based on the following reasons.

§ 103(a) Rejections (Konno / Iijima) – Claims 1 and 8-11

Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 2-6 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least, “said operation-equipment operation determining part permits the operation of said engine by using said permission information in said nonvolatile memory, when said engine is restarted in a predetermined time after generation of said permission information,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites col. 6, lines 55-67 of Konno as allegedly satisfying this particular feature. According to Applicant’s review of the cited portion of Konno, Konno only discloses that after using a kick starting mechanism for a

third time an ID code collation means 21 can control the main relay driving means so that the main relay 14 may be placed into an "ON" state. And after a certain amount of time t6, the main relay 14 is placed into an "ON" state. However, the time t6 in the cited portion of Konno does not relate to the recited "predetermined time" in which the engine is restarted after generation of permission information. The cited portion of Konno does not even discuss that an engine is restarted in a predetermined time after generation of permission information. Further, Konno does not disclose or suggest the entire feature that an operation equipment operation determining part permits the operation of an engine by using the permission information in the non-volatile memory when an engine is restarted in a predetermined time after generation of the permission information. Therefore, since the above discussed feature of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by any of the applied references, including Konno, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 8-11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 1.

Rejections of Claims 2-7

With respect to independent claim 2, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the applied references at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. The other applied references do not make up for the deficiencies of Konno and Iijima.

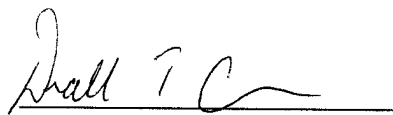
Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-7 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 2. The other applied references do not make up for the deficiencies of Konno and Iijima.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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